



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION**

Testimony of Stephen M. Morelli  
Chairman, Workers' Compensation Commission  
To the Labor and Public Employees Committee

March 3, 2022

Senator Kushner, Representative Porter, Senator Sampson, Representative Arora, and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee:

My name is Stephen Morelli, and I am the Chairman of the Workers' Compensation Commission. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of H.B. 5250, An Act Concerning Minor and Technical Changes to the Workers' Compensation Act. The Commission greatly appreciates you raising this legislation which will codify current administrative practice and amend outdated statutory language.

**Section 1** would replace "administrative law judge" with "chairperson" to codify the current practice wherein notices regarding inclusion or exclusion under the Workers' Compensation Act are sent to the Office of the Chairman for central processing rather than to individual district offices. The rationale for this amendment is that, since these notices are purely administrative in nature, it is much more efficient and economical to have them processed in one location rather than in the eight district offices across the state. Section 1 also amends the manner in which these notices are to be served to align with other filings under the Act, all of which are subject to C.G.S. §31-321. Pursuant to that provision, all notices and/or filings to the agency must be served via registered or certified mail unless the circumstances of the case or the rules of the commission direct otherwise. This amendment provides the chairman with flexibility to adopt future rules and procedures with respect to the filing of notices as appropriate and as the agency's technological abilities progress.

**Sections 2 and 3**

Sections 2 and 3 would, similarly, amend C.G.S. §31-294c and §31-296 to require that notices under these statutes be submitted in accordance with §31-321. The agency is currently working with the Bureau of Information Technology Solutions within the Department of Administrative Services to improve its technological capabilities and update its system to allow for the secure e-filing of legal documents. As with the aforementioned changes, therefore, these amendments would allow for more flexibility to the agency to adopt rules for the secure electronic submission of forms in the future.

**Section 4** adds "chairperson" to "employer, employee or administrative law judge" under C.G.S. §31-321, to codify that any notices sent to the Chairperson pursuant to the Workers' Compensation Act should be done so in accordance with section §31-321.

In conclusion, the Commission believes H.B. 5250 will align statutory language with modern administrative practices and promote a framework to enhance the agency's future electronic capabilities.

I thank you again for providing me with the opportunity to submit testimony in support of H.B. 5250. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.